

The Advisor

Aug. 20, 2005

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Official Weekly Command Information Report for the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq



Dig It!

**Iraqi Army Field Engineer Regiment
on course for training nine companies**

Aug. 20, 2005

MNSTC-I

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Cover: The 1st Field Engineer Regiment of the Iraqi Army has 15 excavators used for training at Taji Military Base. Training at the base began in June and is expected to continue through next year.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Constitution delays will not affect operations, Casey says

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq – No operational effects are expected from the delay in writing the Iraqi constitution, the commander of Coalition forces in Iraq said Aug. 17. In an interview here, U.S. Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr. said the fact that the Iraqis themselves delayed unveiling the constitution shows "they figured it out."

On Aug. 15, the Iraqi National Assembly unanimously agreed to extend the deadline until Aug. 22. "They figured out they needed time to get it done better than they had it," Casey said. "And I think that's a great thing."

Casey said he has not yet asked for more American troops for Iraq's October or December elections. "We always have the possibility of bringing over some additional troops," he said. "We're looking at that. I haven't asked for anything yet. But that certainly is a possibility."

During the Jan. 30 election, American forces beefed up by adding troops and holding troops already in the country. But Casey said there is a crucial difference as the October and December elections near. "This year we will have around 100,000 more Iraqi troops than we did (Jan. 30)," he noted. Iraqi Security Forces will number about 230,000 when Iraqis go to the polls in December to elect a permanent government under the country's new constitution, he said.

Training the Iraqi Security Forces is going well, the general said. The partnership effort between the Coalition and the fledgling Iraqi divisions is pay-

ing off. "Watching the example of what disciplined, professional soldiers do and how they operate does so much to bring the levels of professionalism of the Iraqi forces up," he said.

Officials here say the companies and battalions are doing well, as the Iraqi soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 6th Division, which patrols large parts of Baghdad, have improved significantly in basic infantry skills and command and control of small units over the last six months.

Officials said 38 Iraqi battalions are able to conduct and lead counterinsurgency operations - what the military calls being at Readiness Level 2.

Coalition forces help with logistics, close air support and the like, but these units are in the lead and plan and execute their own operations.

Most Iraqi units are at Readiness Level 3, meaning they are in the fight but still depend on Coalition units for conducting and executing operations. "Less than a handful," Casey said, are at Readiness Level 1 - totally independent of Coalition forces.

"You don't build an army overnight," the general said. "They're not going to be independent for a while. But we purposely set it up that way so we could get them into the lead in operating independently sooner, so they will learn faster."

Casey said he is encouraged by the signs in Iraq. "The two things that we have to do the best in are the political process and building Iraqi Security Forces," he said. "And those are the two things that are going the best."

"How many a man has thrown up his hands at a time when a little more effort, a little more patience would have achieved success?"

Elbert Hubbard (1856 - 1915)

Australians turn school over to Iraqis

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq – Less than five months after the Iraqi Army Support Services Institute started its first cycle of classes, the Australian Army Training Team fronting the effort has handed control of the school over to Iraqi leaders.

In an Aug. 18 ceremony at the school, Iraqi Gen. Babikir, chief of staff for Iraqi ground forces, thanked the Australians for helping get the school started.

“It’s a very good start,” Babikir said. “There is still more to do.”

The school trains Iraqi Army supervisors and officers in areas such as combat medicine, vehicle maintenance, transportation, supply and logistics. Courses run between three to five weeks. More than 700 soldiers have gone through the school since the first classes started March 21; another 400 are expected to graduate next week.



Australian Lt. Col. Warren Jolly, a senior adviser to the Iraqi Army Support Services Institute, stands before an Australian flag his training team gave to the school as he thanks Iraqi leaders for a plaque, a replica of the school's patch, they presented to him during an Aug. 18 ceremony. The Australians turned control of the school over to Iraqi leaders.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell



The school's patch was designed by Iraqi Col. Warid, commandant, and Australian Lt. Col. Warren Jolly. The symbols on it represent the skills students learn at the school: the circle, the shape of a wheel, is for transportation; the wrench, for mechanics; the crescent, for medical; a book, for knowledge; and a bridge representing supplies, holding it all together. A sword on the left and a palm frond to the right represent the Iraqi Army's commitment to provide logistic services in both war and peace time.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

extraordinary job with limited resources in a short period of time,” Petraeus said. “They’ve established a great founda-

tion for the Iraqi Army to build upon.”

Petraeus said plans call for more than 3,000 logistics specialists to be trained by the end of March 2006 to provide the staff for 109 Headquarters and Support Companies, four Motorized Transportation Regiments, 10 Base Support Units and four Strategic Infrastructure Battalions.

The school has 77 Iraqi staff members working under the commandant, Iraqi Col. Warid. That number should double when the school's equipment and staffing plan is approved, Petraeus said.

Jolly presented Warid and Babikir with an Australian flag to display in the school as a visual reminder of the strong bond of friendship the two countries have forged. Babikir, in turn, presented Jolly with a large replica of the school's patch. Jolly was moved by the gift, explaining that he and Warid stayed up late together one night designing the patch.

In his remarks, Jolly praised the Iraqi leaders, instructors and students for their hard work and commitment to the school. He also thanked the interpreters, without whom the school would not have succeeded, Jolly said.

Jolly also said that he and his team respect the bravery of Iraqi Army soldiers and leaders, and their determination to defeat insurgents.

“We hope that you will remember with pride what we’ve built together to help you in that fight,” Jolly said.

Iraqi engineer regiment focuses on training

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq – A group of Iraqi Army officers and noncommissioned officers who completed the first phase of engineer training in the United Arab Emirates are now instructing fellow soldiers of the 1st Iraqi Field Engineer Regiment.

The 85 soldiers spent April and May in the UAE with German instructors. They took a two-week break after returning to Taji Military Base in June, and then went to work on a two-phase training plan for the rest of the 168-strong regiment.

They will return for the second phase of training in late October and return in December; during the second month of that training, another 140 regiment soldiers will join them, said U.S. Army Col. Edward Castle, project officer for the Iraqi Engineer Force Development with the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq. The first group will train the additional 140 on basic engineer tasks under the observation of their German instructors, he said.



Iraqi soldiers install a fencing pole alongside a road. The 1st Iraqi Field Engineer Regiment is currently training soldiers who will eventually fill nine engineer companies that will support Iraqi Army divisions. Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

“This is one of the few organizations where all of the training is by Iraqis,” said Castle.

Three MNSTC-I advisers – U.S. Army Maj. Brian Miller, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Miller and U.S. Army Sgt. Jason Oliver – are with the unit to provide assistance as needed, he added.

Iraqi Staff

Col. Ala’a, regimental commander, explained the training program to U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus during his Aug. 16 visit to the unit. The program is split into two three-week phases; the first phase focuses on field engineering tasks, heavy equipment operations, construction



Soldiers going through training with the 1st Iraqi Field Engineer Regiment place concertina wire on the side of a road in the regiment’s training area. Iraqis are currently teaching soldiers in the Iraqi Field Engineer Regiment

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

and officer/engineer leadership, Ala’a said. The second phase will include training on equipment and tools that weren’t available for the first phase.

“Both of these phases are focused on tasks that support four essential engineer tasks – clearing a route, building an entry control point, fortifying an urban patrol base and improving life support,” said Miller, following the general’s visit. The second phase will start late in the year, he added.

Of the regiment’s nine companies, four have completed the first phase; three are going through it now and the remaining companies will start in late August or September, Ala’a said. Once they are finished with training, the companies,

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Engineers

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of up to 142 soldiers each, will be located throughout the country to support Iraqi Army Divisions.

In the heavy equipment operator training, 13 instructors – mostly NCOs – use 15 excavators to train up to 30 students at a time, explained Iraqi Lt. Col. Sameer, commander of the equipment company. The training focuses on digging trenches and fighting positions, barrier emplacement, filling Hescos, building beams and clearing rubble.

On a walking tour of the training site, Petraeus asked Sameer to teach him to operate the machine. Sameer obliged, standing on the side of the excavator cab as he patiently led the general through a brief overview of the controls. Petraeus spent about 10 minutes lifting the machine's giant bucket shovel, digging it into the dirt, raising it, and then dumping the load to the ground. When he was finished, Petraeus gave Sameer a thumbs up.

Petraeus told the Iraqi leaders and U.S. advisers he was impressed with the training and the regiment's progress.

"When you think back to when there were no Iraqi engineers, it's really heartening to see your vision become reality," Petraeus said. "We know there is a long way to go, but the first steps have been taken."



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, commander of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, lifts a small load of dirt while getting a lesson on operating an excavator from Iraqi Lt. Col. Sameer, commander of the 1st Iraqi Field Engineer Regiment's equipment company (above). After successfully dumping the dirt and turning the machine off, Petraeus gave Sameer a thumbs up for his tutorial (right).

Top photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell.

Right photo by U.S. Army Col. Edward Castle



MNSTC-I officials seek to assist Iraqi scouts

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq – To the average eye, an abandoned island near Taji Military Base is home to nothing more than overgrown brush, crumbled cement foundations, and wind-borne dirt.

But to those involved in fueling the Iraq Scouting movement, the island holds the hope of a combined headquarters for the organization and an expansive camp site for Iraqi youths from across the country to gather.



Patches representing the Iraq Scouts will be available for distribution soon.

Photo courtesy of Green Zone Council

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Stan Haines, who reached the pinnacle of Eagle Scout in his younger days and who now works in MNSTC-I's J-5 future plans section. "One day, it will be filled with the sound of 200 screaming kids."

The motivation behind the project isn't just about creating a place where kids can have fun, though. It's about supporting the scouting effort, which those involved view as a critical part in helping Iraqi youths become productive, responsible and self-reliant members of society who live by values

that transcend all nationalities.

Haines and U.S. Army Lt. Col.

Alexander Von Plinsky, along with others involved in



A group of MNSTC-I officers discuss the layout and infrastructure of an abandoned island near Taji Military Base.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

the project, envision a camp with housing for youths and adult leaders, program areas with huts, a swimming pool, a beach swimming area and a boat dock, a bath house, a



A 230-acre island on the Tigris River, two kilometers long by ½ kilometer wide, has been identified as a location for a national Iraq Scout headquarters and camp. A group of officers from the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq recently surveyed the island to determine its suitability for a camp, which will be used separately by boys and girls.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

rope course, dining hall with a bakery to produce fresh bread, office space and a caretaker's home.

Von Plinsky, who has spent 18 years in scouting and watched all four of his sons make Eagle Scout, said that any plans will have to be approved by the Iraq Scouts Council. The concept has been cleared by MNSTC-I's chief of staff, U.S. Army Col. James Greer, another Eagle Scout. Now the men are looking into the possibility of funding the estimated \$3.7 million project with Community Emergency Relief Program funds.

The deed to the 230-acre island, once used as an Iraqi Air Force base, will need to be transferred from the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Education, which oversees the scouting program.

Once those issues are resolved, the project will go out for bids. The first phase will focus on setting up utilities such as water, sewage and electricity and building the caretaker's home, a storage facility and offices. The second phase will bring billeting and the other amenities.

"Our hope is that by next summer, it will be ready to use," Haines said.

Scouting first came to Iraq about 10 years after British Lord Robert Baden-Powell started the boys' program, which led to the 1910 creation of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. Two years later, Juliette Gordon Low founded the American Girl Guides which became the Girl Scouts the following year, and soon flourished as an international program. Iraq's National Scout Organization joined the

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Scouts

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world group in 1922. Iraqi Scouting disbanded in 1940 and reorganized in 1956 as the Iraqi Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Council.

By 1990, the council had about 12,000 youth and adult members. The world council voted to revoke Iraq's membership in 1991, however, when world officials determined then-President Saddam Hussein had turned the scouts and guides into a government organization that did not meet the standards for international membership.

The effort to reestablish scouting in Iraq started in February 2004 with three Americans – military and civilian, who were based in the International Zone at the time and members of the National Capital Area Council back home in Washington D.C. They created the Green Zone Council, on the premise that “never before in history and likely never again will there be so many international scouters present in Iraq to assist their brother and sister Scouters in this country,” according to the group's records. Then-Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi signed a resolution creating the Iraq Scouting Initiative in November 2004.

The Green Zone Council, which currently meets every Wednesday, is headed by state department employees Nima Motashar, an Iraqi who participated in the scouts as a boy, and Terry Losonsky, who is involved in scouting at home in the United States.

Haines and Von Plinsky are also members of the council, along with U.S. Navy Capt. Steve Foster and U.S. Marine Col. Lee Yarberry. U.S. Army Lt. Col. Randy Readshaw was another member until his recent departure for home. Readshaw, who headed MNSTC-I's J-1 personnel section, was a key player in getting the Taji island project started. U.S. Army Lt. Col. Stan Smith, who does installation planning for MNSTC-I, has also assisted with the project.



MNSTC-I officers surveying an abandoned island inspect a dilapidated building, which appeared to once house horses.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell



Boys and girls in the Iraq Scouts program wear scout uniforms to their meetings and activities, held in schools throughout the country.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Aside from the Taji island project, the council is working on securing funding to send 80 Iraqi Scout leaders – at least two men and two women from each of the country's 18 provinces – to Cairo in January for adult leader training. When they return, they will train other leaders. The cost of tuition has been covered; the council is looking for about \$30,000

to pay for travel and per diem, Haines and Von Plinsky said.

The council is also trying to link senior Iraq Scouters with

peers in the United States, particularly in areas with large Iraqi populations, like Detroit and Chicago, to foster better understanding of each other.

Haines and Von Plinsky are among those who believe that spending money now on helping the Iraq Scouts gain momentum will pay big dividends later on. Both have seen the positive impact scouting has had on their children, as well as the American society in general.

“I'm willing to fight for these kids to have the same opportunity,” Von Plinsky said.



Among the island's crumbling infrastructure are the remains of a water pump house.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Scouting program blossoming in north-central Iraq

116th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Iraq – A group of more than 100 scout and adult leaders met in Hasar, Iraq, earlier this month to learn cooking, teamwork and other skills from the community's growing co-ed International Scouting Program.

The fledgling program, known as Kashafa, began July 7 when Soldiers of the 116th Brigade Combat Team's Task Force 1-148 Field Artillery and leaders from the community of Hasar, Iraq, celebrated a ribbon cutting and inauguration of the program. By that time, leaders had been trained, uniforms distributed to participants and weekly meetings planned.



Children of the International Scouting Program in Hasar, Iraq, play a game which focuses on teamwork and helping others at their Aug. 4 meeting.

Photo by U.S. Task Force 1-148 Field Artillery

Capt. Lane Packwood, a TF 1-148 Field Artillery battery commander who helped train the adult scouting leaders. "Once the adult proctors had been trained on how to run a scout troop, the groups were formed."

The Hasar Kashafa consists of three co-ed scouting groups - Tigers (8-11 yr olds), Lightning (12-14 yr olds) and Eagles

(15-18 yr olds). The groups meet weekly and have 110-120 regular participants.



The Lightning group of the International Scouting Program in Hasar, Iraq, form up at their August 4 meeting. The program generates high interest from both boys and girls.

Photo by U.S. Task Force 1-148 Field Artillery

organization that gives back to the community," said Packwood.

"Local educators coordinated with us to start a scouting program in order to provide the youth in their village with a more creative and engaging outlet," said U.S. Army

"This scouting group shows a good example of a community group working together to create an



Scouts from the International Scouting Program in Hasar, Iraq, participate in a cooking class at their Aug. 4 meeting.

Photo by U.S. Task Force 1-148 Field Artillery

Working with local leaders to establish community-building programs in the province of Kirkuk is part of the 116th Brigade Combat Team's mission while deployed in north central Iraq. The unit's mission also includes assisting Iraq's new government, supporting economic development, facilitating communications and improving security and stability in the region.

Looking back

One year ago in Iraq

Militants loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr say they have handed over the keys of a revered Muslim shrine in Najaf to Shiite religious leaders, The Associated Press reports.

Other wire services report that talks on the fate of the Imam Ali Mosque are taking place Saturday, August 21, 2004, between the militants and religious leaders.

The reports, coming after combat operations in Najaf were temporarily suspended late Friday, raise hopes for a peaceful end to the tense stand-off around the shrine, one of the holiest sites in Shiite Islam.

The militants remain in control of the shrine while final details of the transfer are worked out, al-Sadr aide Ahmed al-Shaibany said.

New Iraqi Army leaders graduate from course

By U.S. Army Spc. Erin Robicheaux

256th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP JUSTICE, Iraq – The 1st Brigade of the 6th Iraqi Army Division faced the challenge of implementing the first Noncommissioned Officer Academy in the country, and succeeded. Now their challenge is to spread the knowledge to brigades throughout Iraq.

“Grab hold of the NCOs and give them the knowledge and skill to succeed on the battlefield,” said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Rachal, an instructor for the Iraqi Army Leadership Training Course, as he addressed a group of freshly-graduated NCOs.

Iraqi Army soldiers from the most recent class, Class 0505, graduated Aug. 6 as the last group to be instructed by the U.S. Soldiers who developed the training.

Rachal, on a one-year tour in Iraq with the 256th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, took his experience as an instructor at the Primary Leadership Development Course at Camp Cook, La., and transformed it into something beneficial for the Iraqi NCO Corps. This was not easy, considering there was no official NCO Corps in the Iraqi Army until just a few months ago.

In fact, the Iraqi Army did not know about the NCO Corps, thanks to the former rule of Saddam Hussein, said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Dean Davis, an instructor at both the IALTC and PLDC with Rachal. Previously, there were only officers and warrant officers, as well as enlisted Soldiers - no NCOs.

“The old regime held them back so much. Their eyes opened wider every time we sat and talked with them,” Davis said. “It was amazing for them to see the feelings of



Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Rachal shakes hands with Iraqi Command Sgt. Maj. Hassan Abdul Kadum, senior non-commissioned officer for the 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Erin Robicheaux



Non-commissioned officers of the 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division march onto the parade field for their graduation ceremony Aug. 6. They are the final class to be instructed by the U.S. Soldiers who implemented the course.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Erin Robicheaux

the NCOs now, compared to what they saw in the past.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Hassan Abdul Kadum, senior enlisted advisor for the 1st Brigade, said his NCOs and their brigade are paving the way for all of the Iraqi Army.

“This brigade is the history of the Iraqi Army,” said Hassan. “We are the first to take full responsibility of our own area of operations in the new Iraqi Army, the first to lose soldiers in a combat zone, and the first to train NCOs to be proficient, with the help of the U.S. Army,” said Hassan.

The academy was the vision of Hassan and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. James Mays, senior enlisted adviser for the 256th BCT. Brig. Gens. John Basilica, Jr. and Jalil Khalaf Shwayel, commander of the 256th and 1st Brigade, respectively, realized the importance of the NCO Corps and supported the course fully.

“When the United States instructors leave, I don’t want all of the experience and knowledge we have gained from them to be lost,” said Jalil. “And it will be if we don’t use what they taught us.”

Jalil told his soldiers he would continually walk beside them, and whomever would not wear the uniform in the middle of the street was not someone who should lead the country of Iraq.

U.S. Army Spc. Jade Bernard, of Headquarters Company, 256th BCT, helped with the classes on an administrative level and said her involvement helped the female soldiers relate better to their male instructors.

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Memorial service honors U.S. Army soldier

By Ann Bertucci
CPATT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Remembered as a Soldier, a warrior, a leader, a teammate and a friend, U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Michael Benson was honored Aug. 14 in a memorial service that included personal tributes, a last roll call and a 21-gun salute.



U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Michael Benson

Photo by Ann Bertucci

Benson, 40, died Aug. 12 at the Bethesda Medical Center in Washington D.C., 10 days after being critically injured in an enemy attack that occurred while traveling in a convoy through Baghdad. He was assigned as a Special Police Transition Team adviser to the Iraqi Public Order Division with Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq's Civilian Police Assistance Training Team.

Benson joined the Army in 1985 as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division. His first deployment to Iraq was in 1992 as part of Operation Provide Comfort. In March 2005, he was again

deployed to Iraq, this time joining Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Over his 20-year career he earned a myriad of awards, including the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Star, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Parachutist's



Fellow Soldiers pay tribute to U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Michael Benson during an Aug. 14 memorial service that included personal tributes, a last roll call and a 21-gun salute.

Photo by Ann Bertucci

Badge and Recruiter's Badge.

Benson was an ardent American patriot who loved his country and what it stands for, said U.S. Army Col. Gordon Davis, commander of the Special Police Transition Teams. "He believed in the fight we are now in – to bring aid and stability to troubled lands, to vanquish those who would threaten our homeland and the freedom it breeds throughout the world," Davis said.

In a letter home to his family several years ago, Benson wrote, "I hope you can understand how my job goes and the kind of dedication I put into it. It means sacrificing all – each and every one of my personal goals – to be a team player in this combat force. My job comes before everything else in my life – even my own life."

Benson is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Brown Benson.

NCO School

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"They've done really well with the course and started to pull together once they saw they could do it better and faster if they worked together as a team," she said, referring to teamwork obstacles the instructors gave them to perform.

Bernard was part of the military police platoon in her unit and played an integral part in training the Iraqi Police for the elections in January. She claimed working with the Iraqi Army soldiers was just as rewarding, though on an individual basis.

"The opportunity to help the soldiers work as a team and come together, instead of working against each other, was

overwhelming," she said.

The class will continue after the U.S. instructors leave, and will be taught by NCOs from the 1st Brigade who assisted Rachal and the others throughout the different courses. The course will build on the base laid out before them.

At the end of the graduation ceremony, Rachal thanked Jalil, Hassan, and the Iraqi Army NCOs, as well as the 256th leadership for allowing him the privilege of bringing his skills to the table in Iraq.

"I can't go through this last graduation without saying a few words. This IALTC has greatly impacted my life and will always be a part of me," he said. "After what I have seen these past few months, I know your challenge can be met."

Course develops leadership and basic skills

By U.S. Army Maj. Michael L. Eller

3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division MiTT Adviser

AD DIWANIYAH, Iraq – The 3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, also known as the “Al Karar” Brigade, recently completed its second Patrol Leader’s course.

The two-week course reinforces basic skills outlined in the Iraqi Army soldier’s manual, as well as the development of leadership skills. Classes are comprised of brigade officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers. The first course graduated 21; the second, 36.

The course was developed in May by U.S. Army Master Sgt. Robert Downing and other Military Transition Team advisers, with the intent of turning it over to brigade leaders this fall.

“My goal for this course is to develop small unit leaders, which in turn helps build a better Iraqi Army,” said Downing, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the course.

U.S. advisers led the first class; the second class was led jointly by MiTT advisers and graduates from the first class. The third class, scheduled for the fall, will be led by Iraqi instructors with MiTT NCOs providing assistance as needed.

Iraqi Col. Rahman, brigade commander, said he was proud of the soldiers who have completed the course.

The program focuses on teamwork and leadership skills, drawing on the MiTT advisers’ experiences in the U.S. Army Ranger School and Special Forces Qualification Course. A typical day includes physical training, classroom instruction, practical training exercises and teamwork/leadership activities.



Two Iraqi soldiers work together moving sandbags as part of a practical training exercise to build teamwork. Each squad must advance the sandbags approximately 200 meters.

Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Michael L. Eller

Students are selected each night to lead classes in the next day’s training. They are expected to outline the lesson and deliver it in a professional manner. Student leadership positions rotate daily.



Patrol Leader course soldiers conduct an air assault drill to effectively refine leadership and tactical skills.

Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Michael L. Eller

“A key leadership skill is the ability to effectively communicate information,” said Downing. “Assigning students as instructors develops this ability.”

Each event is evaluated, with students receiving daily feedback on their performance in one-on-one sessions with cadre, said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Steve Martin, the assistant NCOIC. Team events are followed by group after-action reviews, he added.

Students also receive training in close quarters marksmanship, advanced marksmanship, land navigation and troop leading procedures. During the last 72 hours of the course, students participate in a field training exercise that includes dismounted reconnaissance patrols and small unit raids in an urban environment.

The field exercise is a continuous operation, with little time for sleep. The added stress of minimal sleep and physical exertion provides each soldier an opportunity to learn more about himself and his teammates.

The course culminates with a written examination and a physical training test. Soldiers who complete the course are awarded a certificate and the 3rd Brigade Patrol Leader badge to wear on their uniform. Individual honors are given for marksmanship, physical fitness and leadership.

The Al Karar Brigade’s MiTT is comprised primarily of soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve’s 98th Division, an institutional training unit based in Rochester, N.Y. The 98th was mobilized in October 2004 to support the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq.

MiTT teams interested in conducting a Patrol Leader’s Course with their Iraqi Army brigade can contact Downing at Robert.downing@us.army.mil for a copy of the program of instruction.

Training, fighting and dying together

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta

42nd U.S. Infantry Division Public Affairs

BAYJI, Iraq – Behind the walls of an old British fort here, and in the area around the base, a Pennsylvania Army National Guard unit with roots in the American Revolution is helping Iraq secure its own nationhood by training, and fighting alongside its soldiers.

Through success, setback and loss, troops of Company A, 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry and Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division have shared the frustrations - and rewards - of this mission.

"Sometimes you'll train them on task, and they don't seem to get it," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jonathan Flynn, a Company A squad leader. "Then you'll go out on a mission, and they'll do it perfectly. They'll surprise you sometimes."

The Iraqi troops apply the training they receive in the fight against the insurgents. Almost daily, the Iraqi and American soldiers mount Humvees and pick-up trucks and roll out of the gate, departing the base to patrol, man traffic control points, or check infrastructure like power lines, a new mission recently added to the soldiers' battery of tasks.



A soldier of Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division bounds forward on a live-fire range at FOB Summerall.

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta

Company A began training and performing combat operations with the Iraqi soldiers last December. In May, they certified the Iraqi soldiers in squad-level missions; now they're training them to take on platoon and company-level missions.

In March, with support from Coalition forces, the

Iraqi soldiers pulled off a two-pronged raid, netting both targets – a weapons cache and a known terrorist.

Other training and tactical milestones followed, including the capture of insurgent Samir Yasin Taha in July – a platoon-level operation whose success is owed entirely to Iraqi soldiering and leadership, said U.S. Army Sgt. James Mostiller, a Company A team leader.

"They led the briefing and led the patrol," Mostiller said. "We allowed them to do everything. They did a great job and accomplished the mission."



An Iraqi medic (center-right), U.S. Army Capt. Michael Hart, chaplain (left), and U.S. Army Sgt. Robert Hildreth, medic (far right) console Spc. Bryan Walczar at FOB Summerall's aid station following an IED attack which injured Iraqi soldiers on a vehicle Walczar was driving.

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta

However, refining the Iraqi unit's ability to execute platoon and company-level operations has been hit by difficulties beyond either the American or Iraqi soldiers' control – like changes in leadership, a developing logistics system and a fledgling Iraqi noncommissioned officer corps.

"They still have a long way to go," Flynn said. "The NCO corps needs a lot of work. You can't build an American sergeant in a year, and you can't build an Iraqi sergeant in a year, either."

U.S. Army Sgt. Craig Fisher and U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jon Siennick, medics with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, man the aid station in the Iraqi Army compound within the base here – an old British fort from where the Iraqi soldiers train and operate.

Fisher and Siennick's efforts – including "correct diagnosis and preventive medicine," Siennick said – strengthened Iraqi ranks by reducing sick-call visits. They also created medical records for the Iraqi soldiers, conducted first aid training and had first-aid tasks translated into Arabic.

The medics recently certified nine Iraqi soldiers as combat life-savers. They plan to certify others and are training combat medics.

"We want one combat lifesaver per fire team," said Siennick. "We're training 14 combat medics, which will give them two combat medics per platoon."

Two of the medics they taught used the medical training to

See 'Together'

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A member of Company C's newly-formed quick-reaction force helps secure a unexploded ordnance site near FOB Summerall.

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta

Together

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treat members of their families, Fisher said.

"They're very hungry for knowledge and very willing to learn," Fisher said. "They're excited Saddam Hussein is no longer here. They're not stupid – they just don't do things our way. They're willing to change. They just need help to do that."

In some respects the glass is half-full, and in some respects it's half-empty, Siennick said. "Our medics here have a great thirst for knowledge, but they run into difficulty because of the Iraqi education system," Siennick said. "About 40 percent of our [Iraqi] soldiers are illiterate."

In addition to the education system, Fisher and Siennick said basic cultural aspects, like differing Iraqi dialects and tribal loyalties, make training a challenge. Company A soldiers use tribal conflicts among the Iraqi troops as a teaching tool about the importance of unit loyalty, Fisher said. Tribal conflict has abated somewhat, he added, but it is an ongoing struggle.

"We've been trying to reinforce that," Fisher said. "We tell them that the Iraqi army is a tribe and that they're a band of brothers. It sounds like a cliché, but it's true."

The Iraqi troops' strong suit is their ability to gather intelligence – the ace-in-the hole of low-intensity conflicts like the one they're fighting, said U.S. Staff Sgt. Chad Bruckner, a Company A squad leader.

"They speak Arabic and they live here," said Bruckner. "I don't care what kind of intelligence specialist you bring in, they're not going to get the kind of intelligence the Iraqis can get."

"I can speak with the people and I know the area very well," said Iraqi Staff Sgt. Jamal Achmed, Company C. "Getting

information is something we need for this job. The way we talk with people helps get us info."

Lanky and confident, Achmed sports a wide grin when he talks. He is 21 years old and joined the Iraqi Army early this year.

"I like the army," Achmed said. "All my friends are here in this company. We get great joy from training together and fighting the insurgency together." He was promoted quickly, he added, because he picked up the training fast.

"NCOs guarantee the flow of information in the chain of command," Achmed said. "The NCOs make sure the soldiers get the information and also make sure they're applying it."

Like his American counterparts, Achmed is alert to his soldiers' actions.

"I always observe and note my soldiers' strengths and weaknesses," he said. "That way I can correct them and show them how to do things."

Iraqi Sgt. Zaban Rady Shbat, a 21-year-old squad leader, is part of Company C's recently formed quick-reaction force, or QRF – another essential tool in low-intensity conflicts and, like the training of medics and combat life-savers, another step forward for the Iraqi unit.

"If [the patrols] see anything suspicious, or get attacked, we are ready to go, all the time," Shbat said.

"As part of the QRF, I am ready with my weapon and body armor at all times, to go out and catch the bad guys, or fix some

wrong," said Iraqi Pvt. Falih Mohamed Gothwey, 19, also of Company C. "I am not afraid to patrol in Bayji or the surrounding cities at night because I know those areas. But I am sometimes afraid of the [vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices] in the mornings."



A local boy gives water to soldiers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division who were on a civil affairs mission in Bayji.

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta

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Together

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A soft-spoken soldier, Gothwey would not speculate about the upcoming elections.



Iraqi soldiers conduct first-aid classes in the old British fort which serves as the Iraqi Army compound at FOB Summerall.

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta

"God willing, we will see something good," he said. "Maybe in the future we will be able to walk the streets, night or day, without being scared. That's my goal as a soldier."

The Company A soldiers know the risks the Iraqi troops are taking. "Where we patrol, a lot of the Iraqi Army soldiers live there," said Mostiller. "They're putting their lives on the line just being in the Iraqi Army. They're also putting their families lives on the line."

Mostiller said he is proud of the Iraqi soldiers and lamented

the fact that the Iraqi soldiers have to cover their faces while on patrol.

"It's easy for me to be a soldier because I don't live in the towns I patrol," said Mostiller. "They have a lot of spirit and heart. It's a shame that they have to cover their faces for

fear that they or their families will be attacked."

Ali said the American and Iraqi soldiers get along well. "We are friends and we are joking with each other all the time," Ali said.

Some of the Americans have learned Arabic words, Achmed said, and soldiers of both nations also communicate with gestures and tones.

"They know what we mean without translation," Achmed said.

Both units have suffered casualties. Company A recently lost four soldiers to an IED near Bayji.

"They came to do this mission, and we leave the base to do missions together," Achmed said. "This is enough to create a strong relationship between us."



An Iraqi NCO of Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division briefs members of the company's newly-formed quick-reaction force before they leave the base on a mission.

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta

Money Facts

Did you know?



Front side



Back side

The front side of the new **10,000 Iraqi Dinar**, with Arabic writing, illustrates Abu Ali Hasan Ibn al-Haitham. He is known to medieval scholars in the West as Alhazen and was born in Basrah in 965 A.D. His most important work is considered to be a seven volume series on optics *Kitab al-Manazir*, in which he gives the first correct explanation of vision. His writings show that light is reflected from an object into the eye and is said to have 'invented' the camera obscura. Also, an eminent physicist and mathematician, Al-hazen developed analytical geometry by establishing a linkage between algebra and geometry. His work was translated into Latin, and greatly influenced European scientific thought.

The back, with English writing, shows the Hadba Minaret at the Great Nurid Mosque in Mosul. The minaret was built in 1172 A.D by the Turkish ruler Nurridin Zangi. The 59 meter high minaret leans eight feet off the perpendicular, which is how it earned its Arabic name Al-Hadba ('the humped').

- Information provided by Central Bank of Iraq web site

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

116th BCT delivers refurbished weapons to Northern Oil Company security officials

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR – Soldiers from the 116th Brigade Combat Team's civil affairs section delivered three refurbished machine guns Aug. 2 to Iraqi forces near Kirkuk, who will use them to protect vital oil infrastructure.

The weapons had been confiscated from insurgents and refurbished by Coalition troops before being delivered to



A Northern Oil Company instructor teaches security personnel the proper use of the Russian-made BKC machine gun August 2 at the NOC Training Center near Kirkuk.

Photo by 116th Brigade Combat Team Civil Affairs

members of the Northern Oil Company's Oil Protection Force, who will use them to guard against terrorists trying to destroy pipelines and other critical oil infrastructure.

"They're Russian-

made machine guns," said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Alcario Chapa, a 116th BCT civil affairs noncommissioned officer who helped with the delivery. "They'll be using them to secure the oil pipelines."

The machine guns delivered to the Northern Oil Company's OPF Training Center fire both linked and unlinked 7.62mm ammunition – the same caliber fired by the U.S. Army's M-60 machine gun. OPF leaders conducted pre-marksanship training on the machine guns for their personnel the same day the weapons arrived and then allowed each security guard to fire 30 rounds on their training range.

Weapons qualification is not the only type of training conducted at the center.

"They've made a lot of progress," said Chapa, who also helped with a recent refurbishing of the training facility. "They've done medical training, weapons training, emergency response training, computer training and firefighter training."

New equipment – computers, for example – is also helping to improve the training center, Chapa said. The 116th BCT soldiers helped acquire the computers recently. But even if the equipment isn't new, OPF personnel ensure it is put to good use, just as they did with the machine guns.

Helping secure critical infrastructure in the province of Kirkuk is part of the 116th Brigade Combat Team's mission while deployed in north central Iraq. The unit's mission also includes assisting Iraq's new government, supporting economic development, facilitating communications and improving general security. (116th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)

Refrigerators keep IED cool

MUQDADIYAH – Iraqi Police discovered an improvised explosive device inside two refrigerators on the side of a road during an Aug. 7 patrol. The police officers secured the site and contacted the Iraqi Army. The IED was composed of one 120mm mortar round, two 122mm rounds and one 155mm round with a remote control detonation device. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Iraqi Army soldiers help child escape from terrorists

CAMP TIGERLAND – Iraqi soldiers aided in the escape of a young man Aug. 10 after he was kidnapped by terrorists in the Mansour district of Baghdad.

The boy was playing soccer with some friends, when five armed and masked men grabbed him and shoved him into a black Daewoo Prince. The vehicle drove off and headed west until the terrorists arrived in a Ghazaliyah neighborhood.

The terrorists stopped on a corner near two men who appeared to be waiting next to a taxi. The kidnappers pushed the boy out of the car and sped away, as the men on the street attempted to put him into the cab. The boy fought them, and was struck several times. The most severe blow was to his face, right below his left eye.

Just as the men tried again to shove the boy into the taxi, the Iraqi soldiers drove around the corner and witnessed him break free from one of the terrorists, only to have the other shove him to the ground. As the soldiers approached, the terrorists jumped into the taxi and sped away.

The boy ran into a home and told the residents what occurred, and they, in turn, called his father and explained the situation. The soldiers waited with the boy until his father arrived on the scene.

The father and son went to the brigade headquarters the next day to thank Iraqi brigade leaders Col. Mohammed Faik Rauf and Brig. Gen. Jalil Khalaf Shwayel for their soldiers' efforts in the rescue of his son. (256th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)

Iraqi Army detains murder suspect

DAQUQ – Iraqi Army soldiers at a traffic control point Aug. 10 recognized and detained a murder suspect in a 2003 case involving a land dispute between relatives. The individual was transported to the Iraqi Police. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

IEDs found near bridge

AD DIWANIYAH – Iraqi Army soldiers on patrol located improvised explosive devices that had been placed near the Najaf Road Aug. 12.

When they received a tip about a suspected IED in the vicinity, soldiers with the 8th Iraqi Army Division found six rockets near an abandoned bridge in the Nooria area. The unexploded ordnance was safely removed.

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Iraqi, U.S. forces repel attack, nab terror suspects

BAGHDAD – Iraqi and U.S. soldiers squelched a terrorist attack on a combined patrol base in southwest Baghdad by capturing six of the attackers and taking their weapons.

The attack began just after 7:50 p.m. Aug. 11 when terrorists fired five rocket-propelled grenade rounds at the patrol base. The attackers then fired sporadically at the base for about 10 minutes with rifles. The Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers organized a patrol and set out in the direction the attack originated from in order to catch the attackers.



Weapons seized after a failed terrorist attack on an Iraqi and U.S. patrol base Aug. 11. In addition to the weapons, the combined force took six of the attackers into custody for questioning. Photo by U.S. Army

Within minutes, the combined patrol came upon a group of people gathered around three vehicles a short distance from where the attack began. When the soldiers investigated, they discovered the cars' engines were warm. They also

found two RPGs and three rifles with ammunition hidden nearby. The combined patrol took six people at the site into custody.

Iraqi Police made another arrest in central Baghdad shortly before midnight when they detained a man with a black bag containing what the police thought was TNT. When the police questioned the man, he admitted he had planned to place the bomb somewhere in the area. Task Force Baghdad explosives experts were called to the scene to dispose of the bomb and take the suspect into custody for questioning. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

Baghdad Police report successful operations

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Police Service officers continue to respond to insurgent violence with improved investigations, deliberate planning and well-executed searches.

In the last several days, Iraqi Police Service officers in the New Baghdad District have conducted a variety of operations including raids involving over 450 officers. The targeted raids were directed at 40 residences and resulted in the confiscation of 30 AK-47 automatic rifles, two hand guns, and one machine gun. Police arrested 30 suspected insurgents, three of whom were targeted in the raids.

In addition, police at the Al Khanssa Police Station captured a kidnapper involved in the abduction of a local physician whose family paid a ransom to have the victim released. Following the arrest, police officers recovered the doctor's vehicle as well as the ransom money paid by his family.

Iraqi soldiers capture five targeted insurgents

HABBANIYAH – Iraqi Army soldiers and Coalition forces conducted a successful cordon and search operation here Aug. 12.

Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force and 1-110th U.S. Infantry Regiment searched homes of suspected AIF members in the area. Five targeted AIF operatives were detained.

Iraqi soldiers detain four and confiscate vehicle

ABAYACHI – Iraqi Army soldiers conducted a successful cordon and knock operation in search of anti-Iraq forces here Aug. 13.

Soldiers with the 4th Iraqi Army Division detained four suspected AIF members during the search. While on the scene, soldiers searched a Toyota Supra, with sunroof removed, and found shells from a light machine gun and blood stains in the trunk. The vehicle was confiscated and the suspects were taken to a secure facility for questioning.

Neighbor identifies insurgents to joint forces

FALLUJAH – Iraqi Army soldiers and Coalition forces conducted a joint cordon and search operation in northwest Fallujah Aug.13.

Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force and 1/6 U.S. Marines searched 579 houses and detained two suspects. The suspects were identified as insurgents by a neighbor. No weapons or contraband were discovered. The Marines transported the detainees to a detention center for questioning.

Iraqi Police arrest Syrian before planned suicide attack

AS SAMAWAH – Iraqi Police detained one suspected anti-Iraqi force operative during a search here Aug.12.

Iraqi Police officers arrested a Syrian man who was standing in proximity to a red Toyota vehicle. The Syrian suspect later admitted to traveling to As Samawah to carry out a suicide attack during a planned demonstration on Aug. 14.

Iraqi Policeman engages suicide bomber

AL HILLAH – An Iraqi Police Service officer identified a suicide bomber in Al Mahawil and attempted to kill him before the bomb could be detonated Aug. 14.

Despite the policeman's best efforts, the Syrian suicide bomber was able to detonate his bomb, killing two civilians and injuring four others in the town of Al Mahawil, which is located approximately 16 kilometers north of Al Hillah.

The report indicated that the officer's actions likely prevented many more deaths and injuries.

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Combined search turns up police uniforms and IED

HIT – A combined cordon and knock operation comprised of Iraqi Army and Coalition forces received valuable assistance from local citizens here Aug. 14.

Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force and Coalition forces detained three suspected insurgents during the search. The soldiers confiscated 14 AK-47 magazines and an unspecified number of police uniforms from two of the suspects. The patrol received information from locals alleging the suspects' ties to the insurgency. All three suspected insurgents were transported to a secure facility for questioning.

Later in the day, the same patrol located an improvised explosive device near the Hit bridge. The IED consisted of one 130mm artillery round, a one liter container with a flammable fluid, a trigger mechanism, and a 12-volt car battery. The soldiers secured the area while an explosive ordnance disposal team destroyed the IED in place.

Searches yield weapons and 15 detainees

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army and Coalition forces conducted a cordon and search in Baghdad and a targeted raid in Mosul in an effort to disrupt anti-Iraq force activity.

Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and 2-121 U.S. Infantry Regiment found seven AK-47 automatic rifles and one machine gun during the Baghdad search Aug. 14. Eight suspected AIF were detained.

In Mosul, soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division and 1-25 U.S. Infantry Regiment discovered a small cache during the August 15 raid. The cache consisted of one AK-47 automatic rifle, one Glock pistol, one revolver, and a large amount of small arms ammunition. Seven suspected AIF were detained and transported to a secure facility for questioning.

Iraqi soldiers receive tips leading to two caches

FALLUJAH – Iraqi Army and Coalition forces responded to tips received from locals regarding weapons stored in two houses here. The information received led them to two caches Aug. 15.

Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force and 1/6 U.S. Marines searched the first home and found three half-sticks of plastic explosive (PE-4), two blocks of TNT, one grenade fuse, two spools of firing fire (which was attached to an electric blasting cap), one artillery simulator, and an Iraqi field phone. Two men were detained. The Marines collected the ordnance and transported the detainees back to a detention facility for questioning.

In the second operation, soldiers from the same Iraqi battalion searched an abandoned house and discovered a cache consisting of eight tubes of plastic explosive (PE-4) and 24 sticks of TNT. The soldiers removed the explosives and transported them to a secure facility for later disposal.

One AIF killed, 16 captured in Al Hillah raid

AL HILLAH – An Iraqi Police SWAT team and Coalition forces conducted a successful search operation targeting four anti-Iraq force operatives here Aug. 15.

Al Hillah SWAT officers and soldiers with 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment captured 16 suspected insurgents including three out of the four targeted AIF leaders. The fourth suspect was killed when he fired on the assault force.

The mission had four primary targets. One was an AIF section leader. The second was an Egyptian known for facilitating, coordinating, and conducting improvised explosive device attacks. The third target was a financier for AIF operations. The suspect killed was on a Coalition target list.

Six AIF detained in searches

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition forces conducted successful search operations in Mosul and Balad resulting in the capture of six suspected anti-Iraq force operatives Aug. 15.

Iraqi Police officers and elements of 1-5 U.S. Infantry Regiment conducted a cordon and search in Mosul in which two suspected AIF were detained.

In Balad, Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition forces executed a raid in which four known AIF operatives were identified and captured, including an AIF cell leader.

Baghdad Police raid homes invaded by Mahdi Militia

BAGHDAD – A team of Iraqi Police Service officers from several police stations including Baghdad headquarters, Zohour, Sa'adoun, and Alwiya stations conducted joint raids against suspected Mahdi Militia members operating in the Karadah District Aug. 15.

The raids were planned in response to several home invasions reported in the district. Approximately 15 Mahdi Militia members, a group associated with Muqtada al Sadr, allegedly beat the inhabitants and forced them from their homes. Evidently, the homes were in close proximity to local polling stations. Police detained several suspects during the raids reportedly associated with the Mahdi Militia. In addition, police seized several rifles and other weapons during the search.



Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Alert soldiers capture IEDs at checkpoint

AL SUWAYRAH – While executing a cordon and search operation, Iraqi Army soldiers stopped a vehicle which contained three improvised explosive devices Aug. 16.

Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division noticed a suspicious vehicle while on patrol and directed it to stop near a checkpoint. Once the vehicle came to a stop, the passengers immediately fled and managed to escape. Three artillery shells with electrical detonators were found in the car.

Iraqi soldiers find weapons and detain 17

AVGHANI – Iraqi Army soldiers and Coalition forces conducted successful search operations against suspected anti-Iraq force operatives Aug. 16.

Soldiers with 1st and 2nd Battalions, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division and Coalition forces detained 17 suspected insurgents, five of which appeared on a Coalition wanted list. Soldiers also confiscated 22 AK-47 automatic rifles and four pistols during the operation.

Combined Iraqi, U.S. operations net 25 terror suspects

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers captured 25 terror suspects during a series of combat operations in the capitol Aug. 17.

Just before 2 a.m., Coalition forces detained a suspect after curfew in the Thawra district in northeast Baghdad. The suspect was wearing an ammunition vest and carrying an AK-47 assault rifle. When the patrol searched the suspect's house they found a second AK-47 rifle, a pistol, one new passport and one blank passport. The suspect was taken into custody for questioning.

The largest operation of the day was conducted at 1 p.m. by Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers in southwest Baghdad. In just over three hours, the combined patrol, acting on a tip from an Iraqi citizen, searched 10 anti-Iraq force safe houses and detained 17 suspected terrorists. The patrol also seized four AK-47s and one machine gun.

At about the same time, another Task Force Baghdad unit conducted a precision operation resulting in the capture of two targeted terror suspects. The suspects are believed to be involved in planning and carrying out terrorist attacks in the Al Rasheed district of south Baghdad.

Later, just before 8 p.m., Task Force Baghdad Soldiers acting on a tip from another Iraqi citizen found one rocket-propelled grenade round, small-arms ammunition, and bomb-making materials at a house in east Baghdad. The patrol also captured five terror suspects and seized wires, batteries, switches, 40 cell phones and bomb detonators. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

Iraqi Army continues to locate and clear IEDs

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army soldiers continue to find and secure improvised explosive devices placed by anti-Iraq forces throughout the country.

During a search operation in Suwayrah Aug. 17, soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division found an IED consisting of three 152mm artillery shells connected by wires and ready to use. An explosive ordnance disposal team defused the IED.

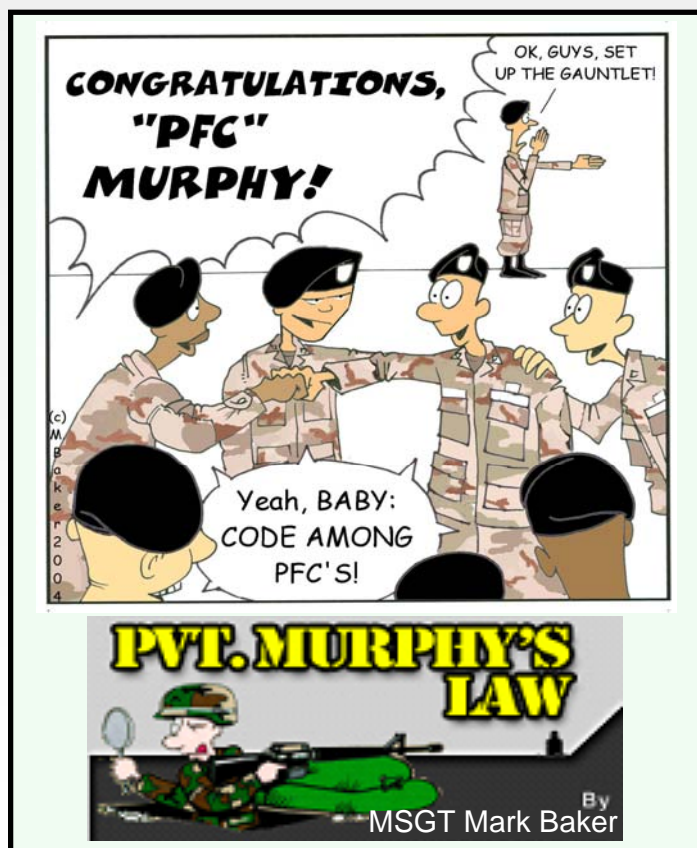
In Fallujah, soldiers with 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force discovered an IED in the median of a roadway while on a dismounted patrol August 17. The IED was concealed in a water jug and consisted of two 120mm mortar rounds connected to a Motorola phone base. EOD destroyed the device in place.

IEDs removed from roadways in Hawija and Mugdadiyah

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces discovered two improvised explosive devices Aug. 18.

While on patrol in Mugdadiyah, Iraqi Police located an IED consisting of three 155mm artillery rounds with remote control initiator. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team disarmed the device and removed it for later destruction.

In Hawija, soldiers with 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division discovered an IED two kilometers southeast of town. The IED consisted of two 155mm high explosive artillery rounds and 25 pounds of rocket propellant. The IED was neutralized and transported to a nearby forward operating base.



Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Iraqi Police graduate 204 from advanced, specialty courses

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi Police Service graduated 239 police officers from advanced and specialty courses at the Adnan Training Facility Aug. 18 as part of the Iraqi government's ongoing effort to train its security forces.

The courses consist of Basic Criminal Investigation with 47 graduates, Interview and Interrogations with 18 graduates, Violent Crime Investigation with 28 graduates, Criminal Intelligence with 25 graduates, First-Line Supervision with 25 graduates, and Election Security with 61 graduates.

The Basic Criminal Investigation course, designed to introduce participants to basic concepts of criminal investigation, covers topics such as theft, burglary, arson, robbery, sexual offenses, and homicide investigation. Students receive classroom instruction and hands-on training in fingerprinting, photography, tool marks and plaster casting techniques. To date, 2,361 police officers have completed the Basic Criminal Investigations course.

The Interviews & Interrogations course covers advanced interview and interrogation techniques and includes instruction on the preservation and protection of human rights, and

the importance of ethical behavior during interviews and interrogations. To date, 586 students have completed this course.

Violent Crime Investigation course introduces participants to investigative techniques to be used in a variety of situations, but particularly in violent crimes including armed robbery, rape and murder. This course has graduated 594 students to date.

The Criminal Intelligence course provides training in the planning, collection, analysis and distribution of intelligence information. This course also equips participants with the ability to recognize trends that may have an impact on public safety and security. This course has graduated 365 students to date.

First-Line Supervision focuses on major leadership areas for front line supervisors including human rights training, ethics and corruption, policing in a democracy, and interpersonal skills critical to effective leadership. To date, 490 students have graduated from this course.

The Election Security course covers the responsibilities of the police to ensure peaceful elections. Potential threats and areas of concern are examined from the standpoint of security and protection of candidates and the voting public during the election period. To date, 318 officers have completed the course which includes a train-the-trainer component to enable participants to serve as trainers in their respective police stations.

Officers who participated in these courses previously completed either an eight-week basic training course for new recruits or a three-week 'transitional integration program' course designed for police officers currently serving, who have received little or no basic training.

The police officers report back for continued duty at their respective stations immediately.

Iraqi Army soldiers detain six suspected AIF in Haditha

HADITHA – Iraqi Army and Coalition soldiers on a mounted security patrol conducted a cordon and search operation targeting several homes here in order to photograph insurgent activities Aug. 18.

Soldiers with the 7th Iraqi Army Division and 3/25 U.S. Marines photographed the targeted residences, and eventually raided one of the homes capturing six suspected anti-Iraq force operatives. All six male suspects claimed to be the sons of the homeowner, whom is currently in custody for allegedly being involved in an August 1 ambush. The targeted house is located roughly one kilometer southeast of the ambush location.

Soldiers confiscated five AK-47 automatic rifles, one light machine gun, a gas mask, and anti-Coalition propaganda. Outside the house, Marines found a taxi with traces of blood on the right rear door, and a bottle containing 20 Dragonov sniper rounds.

Five of the six suspects tested positive for gunpowder residue. All six suspects were transported to a secure facility for further questioning.

Iraqi equipment roll-up

A look at some of the equipment delivered to the Iraqi Security Forces in the past week

Ammunition.....	1.9 million rounds
Handguns.....	6,236
Body Armor.....	5,430
AK-47s.....	4,690
Grenades.....	1,900
LUV Trucks.....	404
UAZ Jeeps.....	131
2 1/2-Ton Cargo Trucks	62
Ambulances.....	29
Armored Personnel Carriers.....	1

— Information provided by MNSTC-I J-4